

Cliff Towner
21 Pole Plain Road
Sharon, MA 02067

April 6, 2012

Kathleen Baskin, P.E.
Director of Water Policy Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th floor Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1012
email: kathleen.baskin@state.ma.us

Re: Sustainable Water Management Initiative draft framework

Ms. Baskin:

As Chairman of the Sharon Lake Management Committee for the past two decades, I have seen the adverse impact of municipal well pumping on Lake Massapoag, the adjacent Atlantic White Cedar Swamp, and our local drinking water quality.

Sharon is running out of water. Despite restrictions imposed on non-essential water use, Lake Massapoag is getting more and more difficult to manage properly due to dwindling inflows from underground springs. The adjacent Cedar Swamp, which charges the springs that feed the lake and purifies and stores Sharon's drinking water, has subsided by as much as three feet in places due to desiccation of organic substrates. Homeowners experience tap water stained brown by iron and manganese, and chlorine levels so high that the tap water smells like a swimming pool and stings in the shower.

Setting Safe Yield higher than current withdrawals will not address these serious problems. I urge you to go back to the drawing board and come up with Safe Yield limits that will reduce excessive water withdrawals that are aggravating our water problems.

You can verify all of this by contacting Sharon's Conservation Commission Administrator. Your safe yield determinations and withdrawal permit requirements should not be made without the input of local Conservation Commissioners who are familiar with local conditions.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Cliff Towner